(c) The Plant Operators were repeatedly persuaded to join back for duty and thsy finally resumed duties on 26-6-92.

Equipments and machinery purchased for Tarapur and other projects

3073. SHRI B. K. HARIPRASAD: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government had received a representation dated 14th December. 1989 containing details of misdeeds in the Nuclear Power Corporation Limited since September, 1987.; if so, the details thereof indicating enquiry made or proposed to be made in the matter;

(b) whether it is a fact that the atten. tion of the Prime Minister was successively drawn to the matter:

(c) whether it is also a fact that equipments and machinery worth Rs. 3,(00 crores were purchased for Tarapur, Kota and Kaiga projects in anticipation cf the clearance of these projects;

(d) if so, whether these equipments were put to use;

(e) whether CAG conducted any audit of the purchases; and

(f) whether Government would consider constitution of a Parliamentary Committee to look into it?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRONICS AND DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. R. KUMARAMANGALAM): (a) and (b) Two letters, one dated 14th December, 1989 and another dated 25th September, 1990, were received pointing out certain irregularities in the working of the Nuclear Power Corporation. These were duly examined.

(c) and (d) During the period from 1986 to 1991, advance action for procurement of certain critical' and long delivery components and equipments for 6x500 MWe units and 4x220 MWe units a*t* a post of about Rs. 760 crores, was taken, with the approval of the Atomic Energy Commission and the Government, with a view to reduce the gestation time. This amounts to less than 10 per cent of the total outlay on these projects. Subsequent developments such as severe resource crunch resulting in paucity of funds for new projects, the high interest rate of market borrowings, etc. introduced a delay in the commencement of new projects. Corrective action by way of slowing down the advance action wherever possible has been initiated. All equipments and components will eventually be installed and used in the projects.

(e) and (f) The Nuclear Power Corporation has been subjected to regular audit by the Comptroller and Auditor Genera[1] of India and its working is also subject to review by the existing Committees of Parliament.

Setting up of Fertilizer Plants

3074. SHRI A. NALLASIVAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 1056 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 14th May, 1992 and state:

(a) the number of new fertilizer plants to be set up during the Eighth Five Year Plan perod and their capacities to meet the demrmd of extra fertilizer;

(b) the quantity of fertilizer to be imported and the amount of foreign exchange required for that in five years;

(c) the cost of installing new plants and the foreign exchange required to get the amount of extra fertilizer that could be produced by renovating the old plants;

(d) whether it is less costly to renovate the old plants than to instal new plants to get the same amount of extra fertili sers: and

(e) if so, the steps taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI CHINTA MOHAN: (a) Subject to availability of natural gas

and other feed-stocks, as also some retro-fitting measures to be carried out by some units in the private sector, it is tentatively proposed to create an additional fertilizer production capacity of about 33.50 lakh tonnes of Nitrogen and about 9.50 lakh tonnes of Phosphates, during the Eighth Plan. Out of this, one ammonia-urea plant each at Babrala (U.P.), Shaha-jahanpur (U.P.), Gadepan (Rajasthan), and Kak'nada (A.P.), aggregating to 12.3 lakh tonnes of Nitrogen, are currently inder implementation and for them gas allocation has already been made. In addition, gas allocation for expansion of IFFCO's Ammonia-urea plant at Aonla (U.P.), expansion of NFL's ammonia-urea plant at Vijaipur (M.P.) and one medium sized ammonia-urea plant in Krishna-Godavari Basin (A.P.), aggregating to 7.7 lakh tonnes of Nitrogen, has also been indicated. The number of other plants to be set up will largely depend on the availability of natural gas and other raw materials and intermediates.

(b) The fertilizers are imported to meet the gap between demand and indi genous supply. The demand of fertilizers depends upon a variety of factors includ ing pattern and progress of the monsoon. However, the actual imports would de pend upon the opening stocks, indigenous production and the availability of foreign exchange. The amount of foreign exchange required to meet the import requirement in a particular year would depend upon the quantities to be imported and their prevailing international price.

(c) The cost of installing new plants will differ from unit to unit depending upon the size/capacity of the plant, feed stock to be used, location of the plant and infrastructural requirements. Regard ing foreign exchange required for renovat ing old plants to produce extra fertilizers, it may be stated that techno-economic feasibility of renovating old plants has to be established first and then only foreign exchange requirement can be estimated.

(d) and (e) No generalised information on this point can be given as the com parative position may differ from case to case.

Curtailing of manpower in PDIL, Sindri

3075. SHRI SAMAR MUKHERJEE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that all appoint-ments have been stopped in Projects and Development India Limited (PDIL) at Sindri, Bihar since last five years and now it is planning to reduce manpower;

(b) if so, the details thereof giving the date of last appointments in PDIL at Sindri;

(c) whether Government are aware of appointment of two Tracer Assistant (Civil) at Baroda office of PDIL vide memorandum dated 10th April, 1992 (Ref. No. PDWR/Pers/3605(10) and ten more in different categories vide memorandum dated 30th April, 1992 (Ref. PDIL/Petrs/ 228A);

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the reasons for curtailing manpower at Sindri and increasing the same at other centres of PDIL?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE; MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI CHINTA MOHAN): (a) and (b) No, S'r. However, PDIL has surplus manpower and voluntary Retirement Scheme is in operation. The date of last appointment in PDIL at Sindri is 12-3-92.

(c) and (d) Following anointments have been made at Baroda and Delhi/ Noida office in the month of April 92:

Baroda Office	:	Tracer Assistant-2
Delhi/Noida office	:	Junior Draftsman-2
Delhi/Noida office	:	Senior Tracer-8

(e) Almost all the clients on whose behalf major projects are being executed by PDIL have insisted on execution of their projects from Baroda and Delhi/ Noida, Keeping in view the requirements of Baroda and Delhi/Noida offices, the manpower is mobilised either by transferring surplus staff from Sindri or through recruitments.